learning process and other related important issues, is already seized of this matter.

Privatisation of primary sections in Kendriya Vidyalayas

3217. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise the primary sections in Kendriya Vidyalayas from the next academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any restriction has been imposed on appointment of teachers in primary sections;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce any change in the existing teachers' strength of Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The existing staffing pattern is being reexamined. Changes, if any, will emerge only after the matter has been reexamined.

Rejection of NCERT new text books

3218. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sixteen States, including the Delhi Government, have rejected NCERT's new text books on History and Social Sciences;

(b) if so, what would be the percentage of circulation thereafter; and

(c) the total number and percentage of CBSE affiliated schools, which would not be accepting the new text books, because of Delhi Government's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) No such intimation has been received by the Government.

(c) As per information received from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) all schools affiliated to the Board including Delhi schools, are following the syllabus prescribed by it.

Amendment in transfer guidelines in KVs

3219. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has amended/is going to amend the existing transfer guidelines for its employees; and

(b) if so, the details of amendments made/being made, alongwith the justification, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Some amendments in the existing Transfer Guidelines are being contemplated. Final decision is yet to be taken in this regard.

Expeditions to Antarctica

3220. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times expeditions have been launched to Antarctica;

(b) the main purpose for launching the expeditions;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to launch any expedition to Antarctica, in the near future; and

(d) if so, when and the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) this Department is organizing annual Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica since 1981 and twenty one expeditions have been successfully launched so far.

(b) The main purpose of launching expedition are:

— To promote gamut of polar scientific activities in the country to ensure a perceptible and influential presence of India in Antarctica.